

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

§ 1739.15

§ 1739.13 Ineligible grant purposes.

(a) Grant funds may not be used to finance the duplication of any existing Broadband Transmission Service provided by another entity.

(b) Facilities financed with grant funds cannot be utilized, in any way, to provide local exchange telecommunications service to any person or entity already receiving such service.

§ 1739.14 Matching contributions.

(a) The grant applicant must contribute a Matching Contribution which is at least fifteen percent (15%) of the grant amount requested and shall be in the form of:

(1) Cash for eligible grant purposes.

(2) In-kind contributions for purposes that could have been financed with grant funds under this part. In-kind contributions must be new or non-depreciated assets with established monetary values. Manufacturers' or service providers' discounts shall not be considered as a Matching Contribution.

(3) The rental value of space provided within an existing Community Center, provided that the space is provided free of charge to the applicant, for the first 2 years of operation.

(4) Salary expenses incurred for the individual(s) operating the Community Center, for the first 2 years of operation.

(5) Expenses incurred in operating the Community Center, for the first 2 years of operation.

(b) Costs incurred by the applicant, or by others on behalf of the applicant, for facilities, installed equipment, or other services rendered prior to submission of a completed application shall not be considered as an Eligible Grant Purpose or Matching Contribution.

(c) Rental values of space provided must be substantiated by rental agreements documenting the cost of space of a similar size in a similar location.

(d) Rental values, salaries, and other expenses incurred in operating the Community Center will be subject to review by RUS for reasonableness in relation to the scope of the Project.

(e) Any financial assistance from federal sources shall not be considered as a Matching Contribution unless there is a federal statutory exception speci-

cally authorizing the federal financial assistance to be considered as such.

§ 1739.15 Completed application.

A completed application must include the following documentation, studies, reports and information in form satisfactory to RUS. Applications should be prepared in conformance with the provisions of this part and applicable USDA regulations including 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019. Applicants must use the RUS Application Guide for this program, found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/> containing instructions and all necessary forms, as well as other important information, in preparing their application. Completed applications must include the following:

(a) *An Application for Federal Assistance.* A completed Standard Form 424.

(b) *An executive summary of the Project.* The applicant must provide RUS with a general project overview that addresses the following categories:

(1) A description of why the Project is needed;

(2) A description of the applicant;

(3) An explanation of the total Project cost;

(4) A general overview of the broadband telecommunications system to be developed, including the types of equipment, technologies, and facilities to be used;

(5) Documentation describing the procedures used to determine the unavailability of existing Broadband Transmission Service; and

(6) A description of the participating Critical Community Facilities.

(c) *Scoring criteria documentation.* Each grant applicant must address and provide documentation on how it meets each of the scoring criteria detailed in § 1739.17.

(d) *System design.* The applicant must submit a system design that contains the following, satisfactory to RUS:

(1) A narrative discussing the proposed Community Center, all costs of the Project, all existing and proposed facilities that are a part of the Project, the services to be provided by the Project, and the proposed Service Area;